

## Message Text

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HEREWITH WASHPOST EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 27, 1974 ENTITLED  
KISSINGER'S LATIN SOJOURN:

IT IS A FAIR MARK OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES THAT THE THREE DAYS DR. KISSINGER SPENT IN MEXICO CITY MARKED HIS EFFECTIVE INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICA AND OVERALL HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH ANY DEVELOPING REGION. "THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN TORN BY MANY PROBLEMS," HE HAD SAID A FEW DAYS EARLIER TO EXPLAIN TO LATINS WHY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS PAID SCANT HEED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS TO NATIONS WHICH WEIGH LITTLE IN THE GLOBAL BALANCE OF POWER. THIS IS A RATHER PATRONIZING EXPLANATION: A GREAT POWER HAS THE RESOURCES, OR IT SHOULD, TO TEND TO MANY PROBLEMS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

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BUT NEVER MIND. EVEN THOUGH IT IS LATE IN THE DAY FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION TO BE TURNING FOR THE FIRST TIME TO A REGION SUPPOSEDLY SO IMPORTANT TO US, SUCH IS THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S CELEBRITY STATUS THAT MANY OF HIS FELLOW FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE PROBABLY DELIGHTED JUST TO

HAVE HIM ON HAND. DR. KISSINGER HAD FURTHER ASSURED A WARM WELCOME BY HAVING THE STATE DEPARTMENT WRAP UP TWO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, ONE WITH PANAMA, THE OTHER WITH PERU, ON THE EVE OF THE MEETING. BUT THESE RESULTS, THOUGH WELCOME, ARE SMALL CHANGE. WHAT COUNTS MOST IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS THE WHOLE BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING MONEY, AID, TRADE, TECHNOLOGY, AND NOW, ENERGY, TOO. FAR FROM BEING MATTERS SUBJECT TO QUICK INTENSIVE BURSTS OF BILATERAL DIPLOMACY, THESE REQUIRE PROLONGED EXECUTIVE ATTENTION AND, IN MANY CASES, THE COOPERATION OF CONGRESS AS WELL. IT IS INTERESTING TO SPECULATE ON WHERE WE ALL MIGHT BE ON THESE DIFFICULT ISSUES IF THE ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN FOCUSING SERIOUSLY ON THEM FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

DR. KISSINGER'S LATIN COLLEAGUES GAVE HIM A CRASH COURSE IN THE NEW HEMISPHERE REALITIES WHEN HE PROPOSED A NEW "WESTERN HEMISPHERE COMMUNITY." A NUMBER OF MINISTERS AT ONCE MADE PLAIN THEIR DISTASTE FOR THIS CONCEPT, SUGGESTING TO THEM AS IT DID THE KIND OF AMERICAN-RUN UNITED FRONT WHICH THEY NO LONGER WISH TO SUPPORT. THE COOL LATIN RECEPTION TO MR. NIXON'S OWN EARLIER SUGGESTION OF A "PARTNERSHIP," AND TO NELSON ROCKEFELLER'S IDEA FOR A "SECURITY COMMUNITY," SHOULD HAVE ALTERED AN ATTENTIVE SECRETARY TO THE PITFALLS OF SUCH A PROPOSAL. IN CURRENT CONDITIONS, MOREOVER, MANY LATINS SEE A "COMMUNITY" AS A DEVICE TO HUSBAND THE HEMISPHERE'S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE SPECIAL BENEFIT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO DENY THEM THE BROADER CONTACTS THEY ARE SEEKING BOTH WITH OTHER LESS-DEVELOPED REGIONS AND WITH MAJOR POWER CENTERS OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE. THEN THERE IS THE POINTED FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS STILL NOT READY TO SEE CUBA READMITTED TO THE "COMMUNITY." A QUICK STUDY, DR. KISSINGER PROMPTLY DENIED WANTING TO

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FORM A "POLITICAL BLOC."

IN FACT, THE HEMISPHERE'S EXISTING "POLITICAL BLOC," THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, HAS PERHAPS NEVER BEEN LOOSER. THE MEXICO CITY MEETING WAS HELD OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THE OAS, WHOSE LEADERSHIP WAS NOT INVITED. VARIOUS OAS ARMS ALREADY EXIST TO TREAT ISSUES RAISED AT MEXICO CITY, SUCH AS THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLO-

GY, BUT THIS WAS IGNORED. THE HEMISPHERE IS MOVING  
TOWARDS A NEW SET OF POLITICAL RELATIONS. THE OAS, TO  
REMAIN USEFUL, HAS GOT TO REDEFINE ITS SHAPE OR ROLE.

LATIN AMERICA SHOULD NOT HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER  
FIVE YEARS TO GET THREE DAYS OF DR. KISSINGER'S  
TIME. THE LEVEL OF WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN THE  
HEMISPHERE SHOULD NOT RISE OR FALL ON THE UNCERTAINTIES  
OF ONE INDIVIDUAL'S CALENDAR. THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION  
HAS YET TO SHOW IT HAS MADE A FUNDAMENTAL DECISION TO  
TREAT LATIN AMERICA WITH THE SUSTAINED ATTENTION WHICH  
ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES REQUIRES. (END TEXT)  
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